

December 21, 2009

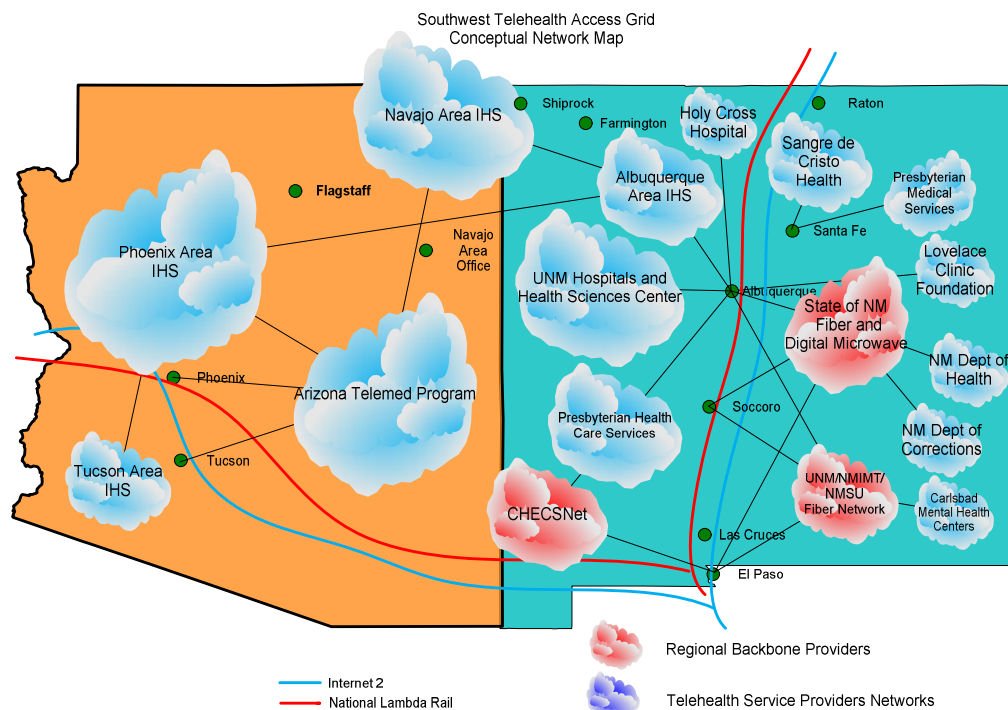
Sharon Gillett, Chief  
Wireline Competition Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Reference: Docket No. 02-60.

Dear Ms. Gillett:

This letter is a request for an extension of the June 2010 deadline for filing the Form 465 and 466 packages for the **Southwest Telehealth Access Grid (SWTAG)** Rural Health Care Pilot Program (RHCPP) for a period of one year. In addition, this letter includes a request to waiver of the requirement in the Order that the Pilot Program be limited to three Funding Years.

The SWTAG project is designed to serve the citizens of the southwestern region of the United States well and its goals and objectives are of significant value to our communities in New Mexico, Arizona, and the Southwest IHS Area offices and the tribes they represent; Albuquerque, Navajo, Phoenix and Tucson. It is intended to be an integrated interstate network of networks built upon the extensive experience of key participants in rural telemedicine and rural healthcare.



Each individual stakeholder's objectives are reinforced by the SWTAG goal to extend and leverage existing and planned statewide networking infrastructure initiatives and investments to create a telehealth access grid of rural healthcare telemedicine systems, particularly with the integration of high-speed Internet backbones offered by Internet2 and National Lambda Rail. This project entails a complex integration of individual network of networks that is designed to support telemedicine, health information exchange, public/population health, emergency preparedness and response. This integration creates several challenges in coordination and implementation but can serve as a national model developing the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) and the Public Health Information Network (PHIN).

Despite the diligent efforts of the SWTAG and its staff, the desired impact from the RHCPP has not been realized as hoped. We share the concerns of many other of our RHCPP peers nationally that we will be unable to meet the June 2010 deadline for submitting final project documents necessary, and encumber the funds to benefit from this federal program as intended. Given a wide range of competing budgetary and operational realities, serious concerns have arisen about successful project completion as this program entered its final year. While there is universal support for the intent of the RHCPP and its potential benefit, the current economic climate has resulted in delayed SWTAG project activities. A program extension will allow SWTAG and its members to complete the project in an efficient and thoughtful manner, as well as prepare the required sustainability plan, insure availability of the 15% cash match so we can implement the entire project appropriately, and effectively. The SWTAG stakeholders strongly support the request that the Southwest Telehealth Access Grid be given a one-year extension to June 30, 2011 to meet the RHCPP requirements that are now in place for the June 30, 2010 deadline.

Therefore, on behalf of the SWTAG, we respectfully request that our RHCPP project be given a one year extension to June 30, 2011 to have funds committed from the RHCPP and one additional carryover year for expending the funds.

We ask for your judicious and expeditious consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Dale C. Alverson, MD  
Project Coordinator, FCC RHCPP SWTAG  
Professor of Pediatrics and Regents' Professor  
Medical Director, Center for Telehealth  
and Cybermedicine Research  
University of New Mexico  
Health Sciences Center  
1005 Columbia, NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106  
Office: (505) 272-8633  
Fax: (505) 272-0800  
e-mail: [dalverson@salud.unm.edu](mailto:dalverson@salud.unm.edu)



Rena Vinyard  
Associate Director,  
Financial Services/ PreAward Administration  
University of New Mexico  
Health Sciences Center  
[MSC09 5220](#)

1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001  
(505) 272-6264  
Fax: (505) 272-0159

Cc: Thomas Buckley, Senior Deputy Division Chief  
Ernesto Beckford, Attorney Advisor  
Danilo Sta. Ana, Universal Services Administrative Company, Coach for RHCPP

# ARIZONA TELEMEDICINE PROGRAM

Ronald S. Weinstein, M.D.  
*Director*  
(520) 626-2971  
FAX (520) 626-4774  
ronaldw@u.arizona.edu



Richard A. McNeely  
*Co-Director*  
(520) 626-7343  
FAX (520) 626-2145  
rmcneely@biocom.arizona.edu

December 21, 2009

Dale C. Alverson, M.D., Medical Director  
Center for Telehealth  
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center  
MSC11 6090  
1005 Columbia NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Re: FCC Docket No. 02-60, Rural Health Care Pilot Program

Dear Dr. Alverson,

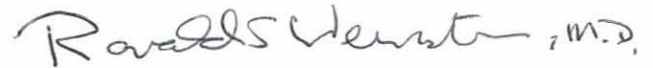
I am writing to support a request to extend the Southwest Telehealth Access Grid (SWTAG) project, one of the Federal Communication Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Programs. This serves as the Arizona Telemedicine Programs commitment to our ongoing partnership with the University of New Mexico Center for Telehealth in this important program. The Arizona Telemedicine Program endorses the request for a one-year extension of the June 2010 deadline for filing the Form 466 as well as the waiver of the requirement that Pilot Program funding be limited to three Funding Years, so that funds currently committed to the SWTAG may be carried forward to June 2011.

The SWTAG project will serve the citizens of the southwestern region of the United States well and its goals and objectives are of significant value to our communities. It is intended to be an integrated interstate network of networks built upon the extensive experience of key participants in rural telemedicine and rural healthcare. Arizona Telemedicine Program's own objectives are reinforced by the SWTAG goal to extend and leverage existing and planned statewide networking infrastructure initiatives and investments to create a telehealth access grid of rural healthcare telemedicine systems, particularly with the integration of high-speed Internet backbones offered by Internet2 and National LambdaRail.

Despite the diligent efforts of the SWTAG and its staff, the desired impact from the RHCPP has not been realized as hoped. We share the concerns of many other of our peers nationally that we will be unable to meet the June 2010 deadline for submitting final project documents necessary to benefit from this federal program as intended. Given a wide range of competing budgetary and operational realities, serious concerns have arisen about successful project completion as this program entered its final year. While there is universal support for the intent of the RHCPP and its potential benefit, the current economic climate has resulted in delayed SWTAG project activities. A program extension will allow SWTAG and its members to complete the project in an efficient and thoughtful manner.

Therefore, the Arizona Telemedicine Program strongly supports the request that the Southwest Telehealth Access Grid be given a one-year extension to June 30, 2011 to meet the RHCPP's requirements that are now in place for the June 30, 2010 deadline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ronald S. Weinstein, M.D.", with a stylized, cursive script.

Ronald S. Weinstein, M.D.  
Director, Arizona Telemedicine Program

RSW/ah





December 18, 2009

Dale C. Alverson, M.D., Medical Director  
Center for Telehealth  
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center  
MSC11 6090  
1005 Columbia NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Re: FCC Docket No. 02-60, Rural Health Care Pilot Program

Dear Dr. Alverson,

I am writing to support a request to extend the Southwest Telehealth Access Grid (SWTAG) project, one of the Federal Communication Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Programs. This serves as the CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center's commitment to our ongoing partnership with the University of New Mexico Center for Telehealth in this important program. CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center endorses the request for a one-year extension of the June 2010 deadline for filing the Form 466 as well as the waiver of the requirement that Pilot Program funding be limited to three Funding Years, so that funds currently committed to the SWTAG may be carried forward to June 2011.

The SWTAG project will serve the citizens of the southwestern region of the United States well and its goals and objectives are of significant value to our communities. It is intended to be an integrated interstate network of networks built upon the extensive experience of key participants in rural telemedicine and rural healthcare. CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center's own objectives are reinforced by the SWTAG goal to extend and leverage existing and planned statewide networking infrastructure initiatives and investments to create a telehealth access grid of rural healthcare telemedicine systems, particularly with the integration of high-speed Internet backbones offered by Internet2 and National LambdaRail.

Despite the diligent efforts of the SWTAG and its staff, the desired impact from the RHCPP has not been realized as hoped. We share the concerns of many other of our peers nationally that we will be unable to meet the June 2010 deadline for submitting final project documents necessary to benefit from this federal program as intended. Given a wide range of competing budgetary and operational realities, serious concerns have arisen about successful project completion as this program entered its final year. While there is universal support for the intent of the RHCPP and its potential benefit, the current economic climate has resulted in delayed SWTAG project activities. A program extension will allow SWTAG and its members to complete the project in an efficient and thoughtful manner.

Therefore, CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center strongly supports the request that the Southwest Telehealth Access Grid be given a one-year extension to June 30, 2011 to meet the RHCPP's requirements that are now in place for the June 30, 2010 deadline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Alex Valdez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Alex Valdez  
CEO – CHRISTUS St. Vincent's Regional Medical Center

455 St. Michaels Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505  
Tel: 505 913-3361 / Fax: 505 913-4984



December 18, 2009

Dale C. Alverson, M.D., Medical Director  
Center for Telehealth  
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center  
MSC11 6090  
1005 Columbia NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Re: FCC Docket No. 02-60, Rural Health Care Pilot Program

Dear Dr. Alverson,

I am writing to support a request to extend the Southwest Telehealth Access Grid (SWTAG) project, one of the Federal Communication Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Programs. This serves as the CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center's commitment to our ongoing partnership with the University of New Mexico Center for Telehealth in this important program. CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center endorses the request for a one-year extension of the June 2010 deadline for filing the Form 466 as well as the waiver of the requirement that Pilot Program funding be limited to three Funding Years, so that funds currently committed to the SWTAG may be carried forward to June 2011.

The SWTAG project will serve the citizens of the southwestern region of the United States well and its goals and objectives are of significant value to our communities. It is intended to be an integrated interstate network of networks built upon the extensive experience of key participants in rural telemedicine and rural healthcare. CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center's own objectives are reinforced by the SWTAG goal to extend and leverage existing and planned statewide networking infrastructure initiatives and investments to create a telehealth access grid of rural healthcare telemedicine systems, particularly with the integration of high-speed Internet backbones offered by Internet2 and National LambdaRail.

Despite the diligent efforts of the SWTAG and its staff, the desired impact from the RHCPP has not been realized as hoped. We share the concerns of many other of our peers nationally that we will be unable to meet the June 2010 deadline for submitting final project documents necessary to benefit from this federal program as intended. Given a wide range of competing budgetary and operational realities, serious concerns have arisen about successful project completion as this program entered its final year. While there is universal support for the intent of the RHCPP and its potential benefit, the current economic climate has resulted in delayed SWTAG project activities. A program extension will allow SWTAG and its members to complete the project in an efficient and thoughtful manner.

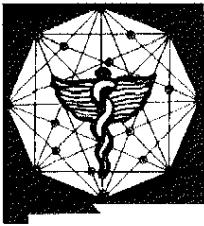
Therefore, CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center strongly supports the request that the Southwest Telehealth Access Grid be given a one-year extension to June 30, 2011 to meet the RHCPP's requirements that are now in place for the June 30, 2010 deadline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd F. Richardson", written over a horizontal line.

Todd F. Richardson  
Vice President Information Systems

455 St. Michaels Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505  
Tel: 505 913-3361 / Fax: 505 913-4984



*New Mexico*

# Primary Care Association

4206 Louisiana NE • Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109-1841 • (505) 880-8882 • Fax: (505) 880-8885 • [www.nmpca.org](http://www.nmpca.org)

December 18, 2009

Dale C. Alverson, M.D., Medical Director  
Center for Telehealth  
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center  
MSC11 6090  
1005 Columbia NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Re: FCC Docket No. 02-60, Rural Health Care Pilot Program

Dear Dr. Alverson,

I am writing to support a request to extend the Southwest Telehealth Access Grid (SWTAG) project, one of the Federal Communication Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Programs. This serves as the New Mexico Primary Care Association's commitment to our ongoing partnership with the University of New Mexico Center for Telehealth in this important program. The New Mexico Primary Care Association endorses the request for a one-year extension of the June 2010 deadline for filing the Form 466 as well as the waiver of the requirement that Pilot Program funding be limited to three Funding Years, so that funds currently committed to the SWTAG may be carried forward to June 2011.

The SWTAG project will serve the citizens of the southwestern region of the United States well and its goals and objectives are of significant value to our communities. It is intended to be an integrated interstate network of networks built upon the extensive experience of key participants in rural telemedicine and rural healthcare. The New Mexico Primary Care Association's own objectives are reinforced by the SWTAG goal to extend and leverage existing and planned statewide networking infrastructure initiatives and investments to create a telehealth access grid of rural healthcare telemedicine systems, particularly with the integration of high-speed Internet backbones offered by Internet2 and National LambdaRail.

Despite the diligent efforts of the SWTAG and its staff, the desired impact from the RHCPP has not been realized as hoped. We share the concerns of many other of our peers nationally that we will be unable to meet the June 2010 deadline for submitting final project documents necessary to benefit from this federal program as intended. Given a wide range of competing budgetary and operational realities, serious concerns have arisen about successful project completion as this program entered its final year. While there is universal support for the intent of the RHCPP and its potential benefit, the current economic climate has resulted in delayed SWTAG project activities. A program extension will allow SWTAG and its members to complete the project in an efficient and thoughtful manner.

Therefore, The New Mexico Primary Care Association strongly supports the request that the Southwest Telehealth Access Grid be given a one-year extension to June 30, 2011 to meet the RHCPP's requirements that are now in place for the June 30, 2010 deadline.

Sincerely,

David Roddy  
Executive Director





PRESBYTERIAN MEDICAL SERVICES

*Building a Healthier State®*

December 18, 2009

Dale C. Alverson, M.D., Medical Director  
Center for Telehealth  
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center  
MSC11 6090  
1005 Columbia NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Re: FCC Docket No. 02-60, Rural Health Care Pilot Program

Dear Dr. Alverson,

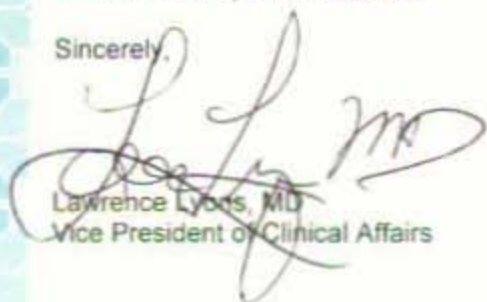
I am writing to support a request to extend the Southwest Telehealth Access Grid (SWTAG) project, one of the Federal Communication Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Programs. This serves as the Presbyterian Medical Service's commitment to our ongoing partnership with the University of New Mexico Center for Telehealth in this important program. Presbyterian Medical Service endorses the request for a one-year extension of the June 2010 deadline for filing the Form 466 as well as the waiver of the requirement that Pilot Program funding be limited to three Funding Years, so that funds currently committed to the SWTAG may be carried forward to June 2011.

The SWTAG project will serve the citizens of the southwestern region of the United States well and its goals and objectives are of significant value to our communities. It is intended to be an integrated interstate network of networks built upon the extensive experience of key participants in rural telemedicine and rural healthcare. Presbyterian Medical Service's own objectives are reinforced by the SWTAG goal to extend and leverage existing and planned statewide networking infrastructure initiatives and investments to create a telehealth access grid of rural healthcare telemedicine systems, particularly with the integration of high-speed Internet backbones offered by Internet2 and National LambdaRail.

Despite the diligent efforts of the SWTAG and its staff, the desired impact from the RHCPP has not been realized as hoped. We share the concerns of many other of our peers nationally that we will be unable to meet the June 2010 deadline for submitting final project documents necessary to benefit from this federal program as intended. Given a wide range of competing budgetary and operational realities, serious concerns have arisen about successful project completion as this program entered its final year. While there is universal support for the intent of the RHCPP and its potential benefit, the current economic climate has resulted in delayed SWTAG project activities. A program extension will allow SWTAG and its members to complete the project in an efficient and thoughtful manner.

Therefore, Presbyterian Medical Service strongly supports the request that the Southwest Telehealth Access Grid be given a one-year extension to June 30, 2011 to meet the RHCPP's requirements that are now in place for the June 30, 2010 deadline.

Sincerely,



Lawrence Lyons, MD  
Vice President of Clinical Affairs



December 18, 2009

Dale C. Alverson, M.D., Medical Director  
Center for Telehealth  
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center  
MSC11 6090  
1005 Columbia NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Re: FCC Docket No. 02-60, Rural Health Care Pilot Program

Dear Dr. Alverson,

I am writing to support a request to extend the Southwest Telehealth Access Grid (SWTAG) project, one of the Federal Communication Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Programs. This serves as the San Juan Regional Medical Center's commitment to our ongoing partnership with the University of New Mexico Center for Telehealth in this important program. San Juan Regional Medical Center endorses the request for a one-year extension of the June 2010 deadline for filing the Form 466 as well as the waiver of the requirement that Pilot Program funding be limited to three Funding Years, so that funds currently committed to the SWTAG may be carried forward to June 2011.

The SWTAG project will serve the citizens of the southwestern region of the United States well and its goals and objectives are of significant value to our communities. It is intended to be an integrated interstate network of networks built upon the extensive experience of key participants in rural telemedicine and rural healthcare. San Juan Regional Medical Center's own objectives are reinforced by the SWTAG goal to extend and leverage existing and planned statewide networking infrastructure initiatives and investments to create a telehealth access grid of rural healthcare telemedicine systems, particularly with the integration of high-speed Internet backbones offered by Internet2 and National LambdaRail.

Despite the diligent efforts of the SWTAG and its staff, the desired impact from the RHCPP has not been realized as hoped. We share the concerns of many other of our peers nationally that we will be unable to meet the June 2010 deadline for submitting final project documents necessary to benefit from this federal program as intended. Given a wide range of competing budgetary and operational realities, serious concerns have arisen about successful project completion as this program entered its final year. While there is universal support for the intent of the RHCPP and its potential benefit, the current economic climate has resulted in delayed SWTAG project activities. A program extension will allow SWTAG and its members to complete the project in an efficient and thoughtful manner.

Therefore, San Juan Regional Medical Center strongly supports the request that the Southwest Telehealth Access Grid be given a one-year extension to June 30, 2011 to meet the RHCPP's requirements that are now in place for the June 30, 2010 deadline.

Sincerely,



John Buffington  
President / CEO





*"Taking Care of the Community — One Patient at a Time."*

1397 Weimer Road  
Taos, New Mexico 87571  
(575) 758-8883  
[www.taoshospital.org](http://www.taoshospital.org)

20 December 2009

Dale C. Alverson, M.D., Medical Director  
Center for Telehealth  
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center  
MSC11 6090  
1005 Columbia NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Re: FCC Docket No. 02-60, Rural Health Care Pilot Program

Dear Dr. Alverson,

I am writing to support a request to extend the Southwest Telehealth Access Grid (SWTAG) project, one of the Federal Communication Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Programs. This serves as the Holy Cross Hospital commitment to our ongoing partnership with the University of New Mexico Center for Telehealth in this important program. Holy Cross Hospital endorses the request for a one-year extension of the June 2010 deadline for filing the Form 466 as well as the waiver of the requirement that Pilot Program funding be limited to three Funding Years, so that funds currently committed to the SWTAG may be carried forward to June 2011.

The SWTAG project will serve the citizens of the southwestern region of the United States well and its goals and objectives are of significant value to our communities. It is intended to be an integrated interstate network of networks built upon the extensive experience of key participants in rural telemedicine and rural healthcare. Holy Cross Hospital's own objectives are reinforced by the SWTAG goal to extend and leverage existing and planned statewide networking infrastructure initiatives and investments to create a telehealth access grid of rural healthcare telemedicine systems, particularly with the integration of high-speed Internet backbones offered by Internet2 and National LambdaRail.

Despite the diligent efforts of the SWTAG and its staff, the desired impact from the RHCPP has not been realized as hoped. We share the concerns of many other of our peers nationally that we will be unable to meet the June 2010 deadline for submitting final project documents necessary to benefit from this federal program as intended. Given a wide range of competing budgetary and operational realities, serious concerns have arisen about successful project completion as this program entered its final year. While there is universal support for the intent of the RHCPP and its potential benefit, the current economic climate has resulted in delayed SWTAG project activities. A program extension will allow SWTAG and its members to complete the project in an efficient and thoughtful manner.

Therefore, Holy Cross Hospital strongly supports the request that the Southwest Telehealth Access Grid be given a one-year extension to June 30, 2011 to meet the RHCPP's requirements that are now in place for the June 30, 2010 deadline.

Sincerely,

Peter Hofstetter  
Chief Executive Officer